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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AMERSHAM

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1956

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
AMERSHAM, Bucks.
May, 1957

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Amersham Rural District Council.*

DEAR SIRS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1956.

There was a good deal of varied activity in the field of infectious diseases during the year. The graph of the 10 year period (1946-1956) page 17 shows that the every-other-year characteristic of epidemic measles has been maintained. There were five cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year, four in the months of September and October. This autumnal prevalence of poliomyelitis was overshadowed in the parishes of Chalfont St. Giles and Chalfont St. Peter where it assumed proportions of a minor epidemic, by another acute infectious disease, which at first sight closely resembled non-paralytic poliomyelitis, but which later was shown to be acute encephalitis. Though the similarities of these two diseases are marked, their differences are even more marked, the chief being that the latter does not give rise to paralysis and its course is usually benign. Laboratory investigations were instituted to identify the virus.

The new British Salk-type vaccine against paralytic poliomyelitis was used for the first time in this country and in this area during the months of May and June 1956.

It is once again a pleasing duty to record that there was no case of diphtheria notified during the year, thus making 1956 the 10th consecutive year during which no case of diphtheria has been notified in the Council's district.

In May and June 1956, the Mass Radiography Unit undertook its second periodic joint survey of the Amersham and Chesham Districts; the first took place in 1952. Of unusual interest is the attempt made to pay particular attention to two special groups. The first comprised the household contacts of those "school leavers,"

who in March 1956 on preliminary testing for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis, were found to be reactors, i.e. already infected: the second group consisted of elderly males, which group is now believed to carry a definite responsibility in spreading tuberculosis especially in industry. The total number participating in the survey in the whole Amersham area in 1952 was 4,816, whilst in 1956 it was 5,516.

Circumstances beyond its control have prevented the Council from implementing its resolution to provide frequent, regular and periodic services in regard to both refuse collection and cesspool emptying. Whilst the main reason for this relative failure is common to both services and is in fact the lack of suitable available labour, the demands on the cesspool emptying service have increased in spite of the extensive works of sewerage construction undertaken by the Council in recent years. The 1955 governmental embargo on capital expenditure has, on public health grounds, been lifted sufficiently to permit the Council to undertake a phased programme of sewerage construction works: much that is urgent however remains to be done in this field.

The designation of the office of Sanitary Inspector was changed by law to that of Public Health Inspector, but the duties and responsibilities remain unchanged. Much of the Council's Inspectors' time is taken up in surveys concerning applications for Improvement Grants, in duties at the slaughter houses, in taking regular routine samples of milk, water and ice-cream for laboratory investigation as well as in the investigation of certain aspects of infectious diseases, and also in the investigation of alleged nuisances.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council's Chief Officers, the staff of the Public Health Department and the inspectorial staff for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

T. P. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

Section I. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistics and Vital Statistics.
Social Conditions. Area. Population. Rateable Value.
Births and Deaths. Mortality Rates, 1956.

Section II. Health Services.

Hospital Services. Laboratory Services.
Ambulance Facilities (Infectious Diseases).
Home Nursing Services. Child Welfare Centres.
Hospitals. Blood Transfusion Service.

Section III. Infectious Diseases.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.
Analysis of Notifiable Diseases (Age Groups).
Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria Immunization; Food Poisoning.

Section IV. Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality, 1956. B.C.G. Vaccination.
Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.
Mass Radiography Survey. Tables and Results.

Section V. Milk.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Article 20.
Food and Drugs Act, 1950. (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream.)
Specification of Areas. Tuberculosis Order 1938.

Section VI. National Assistance Acts 1949-51.

Section 47. "Care of Aged and Infirm Persons."
,, 50. Burials.

Section VII. Housing.

Council Houses 1954-1955. Camp Sites.
Housing of the Aged.
Improvement Grants.

Section VIII. Sanitary Services.

Water Supplies. General Sanitation. Food.
Milk and Ice Cream Sampling. Meat Inspection at Slaughter-houses.
Rodent Infestation, etc. Housing, Defects, Moveable Dwellings.

Section IX. Factories Act.

Section X. Miscellaneous Appendices I and II.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. F. G. CAUDERY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. W. E. JONES

(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Mr. R. POWELL, M.S.I.A.

(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. H. H. COMETSON, M.S.I.A.

(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. J. A. CLIFFORD, M.S.I.A.

(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Clerical Staff:

Mr. T. BALL (Chief Clerk).

Miss K. M. SMITH.

Mr. P. B. CROWE. (Resigned 31-5-1956).

Mr. T. DOUGLASS. (Commenced 31-7-1956).

Rodent Officer:

Mr. H. A. SNAPES.

SECTION I.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. Statistics and Vital Statistics.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	46,680
Area (Acres) of District	...	...	...	...	...	46,233
Number of Habitable Houses (per Rate Book)					...	14,254
Rateable Value of Area	...	...	...	...	...	£661,697
Sum Represented by 1d. Rate					...	£2,560

Amersham Rural District comprises an area of about 72 square miles. It lies in the South-Eastern portion of the County of Bucks., is situate about 25 miles from London and ranges over two spurs of the Chiltern Hills.

Its characteristic physical features are its well wooded slopes and hills. Its social conditions may be described as those due to agricultural, residential and industrial factors. Until 1939, the increase in population was mainly due to its being a London dormitory, but since then there has been a steady flow of selected light industry into the neighbourhood which has absorbed a high proportion of locally available labour. Its proximity to London has also tended to give rise to the development of several well marked urban-type communities within the rural boundaries.

Despite the recent establishment of selected light industries in the district several agencies, including the Council itself, have co-operated to preserve large tracts of woodlands for their amenity value. The provisions of the Green Belt Act and similar powers have enabled large areas of the district to be preserved within the Greater London Planning Region.

On the whole therefore it may be said that whilst there is a limit to the possible development, there is increasingly a tendency toward the better balance of the agricultural, industrial and residential factors in the area.

2. Births.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	15.9
(a) <i>Live Births:</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	353	355	708
Illegitimate	...	23	12	35
(b) <i>Still Births:</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	2	6	8
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	10.76

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
(c) Deaths from Puerperal causes	—	—	—
(d) Deaths of Infants under one year	...	...	...
Legitimate	...	...	8
Illegitimate	...	...	—
(e) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	...
Legitimate	...	...	7
Illegitimate	...	...	—
<i>Infant Mortality: All Infants per 1,000 live births</i>	...	...	20.2
Ditto,	Ditto,	England and Wales	23.8

3. Deaths.

Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	10.2
<i>Causes of Death</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Heart Diseases	...	...	27	40
2. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	8	13	21
3. Bronchitis	...	...	13	9
4. Pneumonia	...	...	13	15
5. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	—
6. Cancer	...	41	37	78
7. Diabetes	...	1	2	3
8. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	1	—	1
9. Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	1	3	4
10. Congenital Malformations	...	2	2	4
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	39	38	77
12. Coronary disease, angina	...	46	31	77
13. Influenza	...	1	—	1
14. Tuberculosis	...	1	2	3
15. Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum	...	2	—	2
16. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	—	3
17. Suicide	...	3	1	4
18. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	31	28	59	
19. Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	3	5
20. All other accidents	...	6	6	12
	242	230	472	

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM (Rural Districts only)
Populations, Birth and Mortality Rates for the Year 1956

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar- General estimated Population Mid-1956	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuber- culosis Death Rate per 1,000 Births	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still-births
Amersham	15.9 (743)	10.2 (475)	0.06 (3)	20.2 (15)	17.5 (13)	— (-)
Aylesbury	15.1 (484)	11.2 (358)	0.06 (2)	12.4 (6)	8.3 (4)	— (-)
Buckingham	16.1 (167)	8.7 (90)	0.19 (2)	12.0 (2)	6.0 (1)	— (-)
Eton	18.5 (931)	8.6 (435)	0.08 (4)	22.6 (21)	15.0 (14)	— (-)
Newport Pagnell	17.2 (242)	13.5 (190)	0.07 (1)	16.5 (4)	12.4 (3)	— (-)
Wing	18.8 (165)	10.6 (93)	0.11 (1)	12.1 (2)	12.1 (2)	6.02 (1)
Winslow	7,670	15.0 (115)	15.6 (120)	— (-)	8.7 (1)	— (-)
Wycombe	39,352	17.1 (745)	10.0 (435)	0.09 (4)	16.1 (12)	12.1 (9)
TOTAL RURAL	192,996	16.8 (3,592)	10.3 (2,196)	0.08 (17)	17.5 (63)	13.1 (47)
								0.55 (2)

NOTES: 1. In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parentheses for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION II.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services

The Amersham Rural District is situate within the area of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Board has delegated management responsibilities of hospitals in this area to High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day to day administration to two "House Committees." One House Committee is responsible for the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham Hospital and The Stone Maternity Hospital. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratories are situated at Oxford and Luton, and in general, undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

The following specimens have been examined at the laboratories of the Public Health Services:

								Number
Throat swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli, Haemolytic Streptococci and Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Lollies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Cup and utensil swabs samples for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Miscellaneous sample for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dried Egg Albumen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	263

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance Service.

Provided by the County Council for the conveyance of persons who, for medical reasons, are unable to travel by public transport.

The County Transport and Ambulance Service Headquarters are situated at 5, Buckingham Road, Aylesbury. Tel. Aylesbury 3375 (7 lines).

In addition to Headquarters, the nearest main station is situated at Old Fire Station, High Street, Chesham, Tel. Chesham 8128, to which application for transport should be made direct.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

<i>Districts Served</i>	<i>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Amersham Amersham Common Chesham Bois Coleshill Winchmore Hill Little Chalfont	Miss P. Harper, S.E.A.N., S.C.M., and Miss M. Inglis, S.R.N., S.C.M., 7, First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham 374
Chalfont St. Giles Seer Green Jordans Three Households	Miss M. C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Holme Lacey, London Road, Chalfont St. Giles.	Chal. St. G. 413
Chalfont St. Peter Gold Hill "Kingsway" (G.X.) Chorley Wood (Bucks Area)	Miss M. F. Vincent, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. and Miss M. I. Cummins, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nos. 1 and 3 Pennington Road, The Glebe, Chalfont St. Peter.	Gerr. X 4030/1
Lee Common The Lee Chartridge Ballinger Swan Bottom	Mrs. B. L. Fowler, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., "Ashleigh," Chartridge Grange Drive, Chartridge.	Chesham 8991
Ashley Green Whelpley Hill Ley Hill Lye Green Latimer & Chenies	*Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M. Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill, Chesham.	Chesham 8238
Holmer Green Penn Street Penn Forty Green Knotty Green Tylers Green	Miss I. M. Cobb, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 8 Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe.	Penn 3327
Little Hampden Little Kingshill Hyde Heath Little Missenden Great Missenden	*Miss J. D. MacDonald, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Cottage, Rignall Road, Gt. Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 2071
Hawridge Bellingdon Ashridge Buckland Common St. Leonards Cholesbury The Vale, Chesham	*Miss J. E. Montgomery, S.R.N., S.C.M., Nurse's Bungalow, Sandpit Hill, Buckland Common, Nr. Tring, Herts.	Cholesbury 269

<i>Districts Served</i>	<i>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Prestwood		
Gt. Kingshill		
Spurlands End		
Heath End		
	*Miss H. M. E. Coulson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Chestnut Cottage, Prestwood, Great Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 2209

*These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Child Welfare Centres

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Medical Officer attends</i>
AMERSHAM	British Legion Hall, Whielden Street.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	2nd Tuesday
Old Town	Community Centre, Woodside Road.	1st & 3rd Tuesday	Each Session
New Town	Amersham-on-the-Hill. Memorial Hall.	2nd & 4th Thursday	2nd Thurs.
Chalfont St. Giles	Tithe Barn, Swan Farm.	Each Fri.	1st & 3rd Friday
Chalfont St. Peter			
CHARTRIDGE and THE LEE	Village Hall, Chartridge. Youth Club Hall, Lee Common.	3rd Thurs.	No Medical Officer
		3rd Thurs.	Each Session
CHENIES	Florence Brown Memorial Hall, Hillside Road, Chorley Wood.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	4th Tuesday
CHESHAM	School Clinic, Germain Street.	1st & 3rd Friday 9.30 a.m.	Each Session
		2nd & 4th Friday Fri. 2 p.m.	Each Session
CHOLESBURY- cum ST.	Village Hall, Cholesbury	2nd & 4th Thursday	4th Thurs.
LEONARDS			
GREAT KINGSHILL	Village Hall.	3rd Weds.	Each Session
GREAT MISSENDEN	Memorial Hall, Station Approach.	2nd & 4th Weds.	4th Weds.
HAZLEMERE	Penn Road Methodist Schoolroom.	1st & 3rd Tuesday	1st Tuesday
HOLMER GREEN	Wesleyan Chapel, Schoolroom.	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1st Weds.
LITTLE CHALFONT	Little Chalfont Hall.	1st & 3rd Monday	3rd Monday
PRESTWOOD	Village Hall.	2nd Weds.	Each Session
SEER GREEN and JORDANS	Baptist Schoolroom, Seer Green.	1st & 3rd Thursday	3rd Thurs.
TYLERS GREEN and PENN	Parish Room, Tylers Green.	Last Wednesday	Each Session
COLESHILL HODGEMOOR	Village Hall.	3rd Weds.	No Medical Officer

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Hospitals For Non-infectious Diseases

(a) *Within the District:*

Chalfont St. Peter Cottage Hospital.

Beds 36, Men 10, Women 14, Children 5, Private 7.

Massage and Electrical treatment are carried out and there is a fully equipped X-ray apparatus.

There is also a General Hospital at St. Mary's, Whielden Street, Amersham.

(b) *Outside the District:*

(i) Chesham Cottage Hospital.

Beds 21, Men 8, Women 7, Children 5 and 1 private ward.

There are facilities for X-ray examinations.

Massage and Electrical treatment

(ii) Royal Bucks County Hospital at Aylesbury.

(iii) The War Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe.

As the District is only about 25 miles from London, patients are frequently sent to one or other of the London Hospitals.

For Infectious Diseases. (Other than Small Pox or Tuberculosis).

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

General Practitioners are asked to request admission to the Isolation Unit, including the adult Poliomyelitis Unit, through the House Physician to the Consultant on emergency duty at Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Telephone: Aylesbury 5050). The Paediatric House Physician should be approached for the admission of children.

Prospect Park Hospital, Reading.

General Practitioners should telephone preferably the House Physician in charge or the Matron at the Hospital. (Telephone: Reading 3654.) (If there is no bed the Hospital will refer the case to the Reading Hospital Bed Bureau.)

Blood Transfusion Service

There is no doubt that this service is one of the most vital to the well being of any modern community, but it is also one of the most unobtrusive and least heralded of the voluntary services in the country. I have to thank the Regional Transfusion Centre, Oxford; also Miss Boston, Commandant B.R.C.S., Great Missenden and District Branch No. 30, and Mrs. W. Stevens, Divisional Director, B.R.C.S., Amersham Division, for the following information relating to the service locally.

Blood-donor sessions are held at six-monthly intervals, usually in January and July, with only a week or two between the times of the visits to Amersham and Chesham.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>No. of Donors</i>
Amersham	Red Cross H.Q. Chiltern Avenue.	Mrs. Stevens, "Lych-Cot," Woodside Close, Amersham.	130
Chesham	School Clinic, Germain Street.	Tel. Amersham 981.	133
Great Missenden	Memorial Hall, Great Missenden.	Miss Boston, "Lansdown," Great Missenden. G.M. 2235	78

There is an urgent need for more donors in all three areas. Volunteers for this important service are recommended to communicate direct with the organiser for their area as shown above.

SECTION III

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Prevalence of Notifiable Diseases
Cases notified during 1956; numbers admitted to hospitals and deaths; notifications 1948-56

	<i>Cases Notified 1956</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital 1956</i>	<i>Deaths 1956</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1949</i>	<i>1948</i>
Measles	75	—	—	1095	23	169	198	416
Whooping Cough	42	—	—	105	79	45	64	200
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—	34	59	26	93	158
Pneumonia	17	—	—	17	2	13	8	34
Poliomyelitis—											6
(a) Paralytic	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non-Paralytic	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Infective	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post Infectious	8	—	—	12	16	—	14	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	3	4	3	2	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	2	8	2	7	18
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever (not notifiable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary	28	14	3	11	—	6	24	29
Non-Pulmonary	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
										34	34
										7	7
										6	6
										24	24
										10	10

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

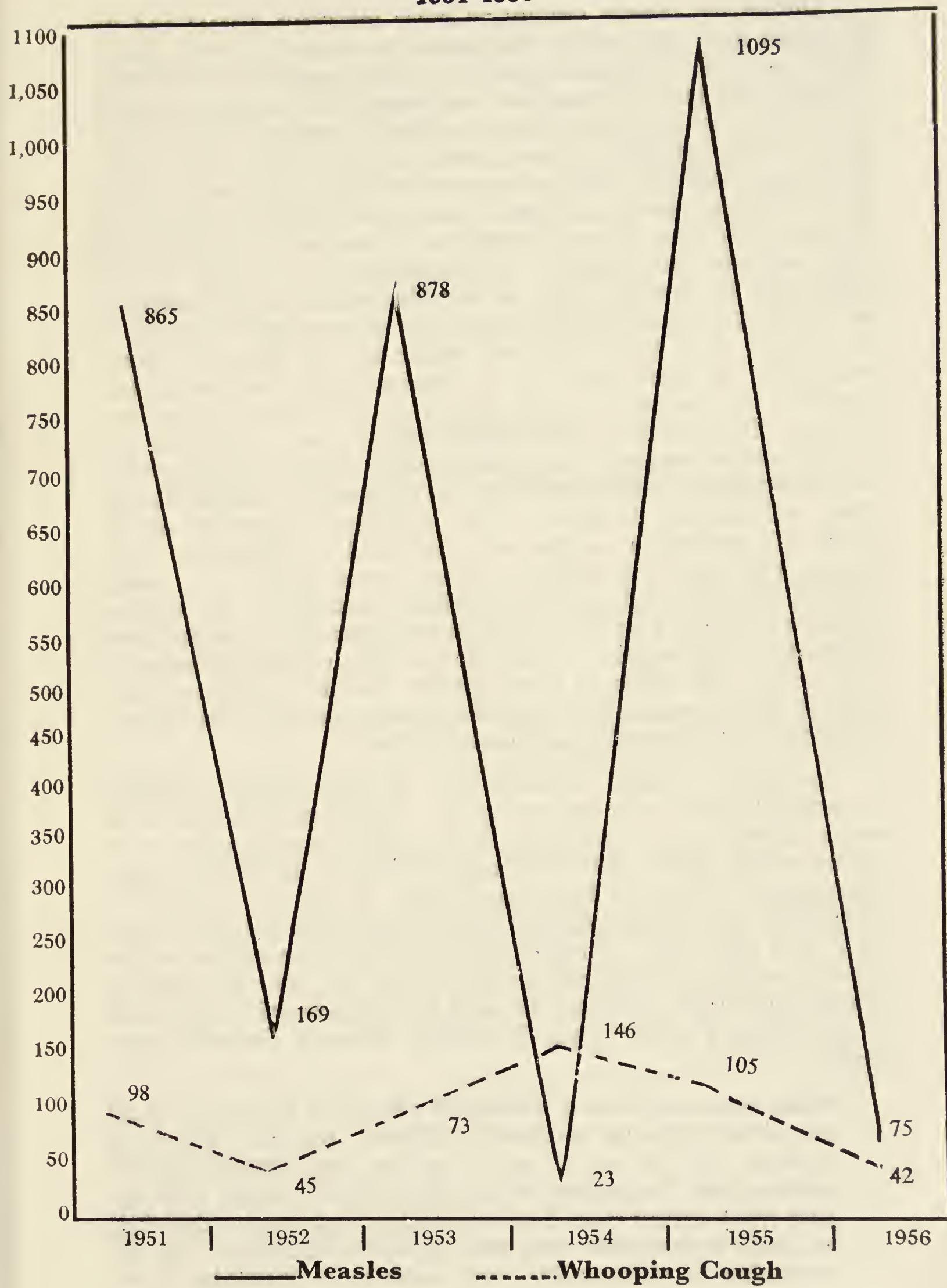
DISEASES	Total Cases at all ages	Years						25 and over	65 and over
		Under 7	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24		
Scarlet Fever	15	—	1	3	7	2	1	1	—
Measles	75	4	20	25	18	5	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	42	2	9	9	18	3	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	10	—	—	3	1	—	1	3	2
Pneumonia	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	6	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Encephalitis Post Infectious	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
TOTALS	179	6	31	42	47	13	12	23	5

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	2	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	5	5	1	6	1	16	17	8	11	2	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	—	6	2	3	6	13	8
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	7
Pneumonia	—	—	1	5	2	1	—	—	2	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Paratyphoid B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
										3	—	—

Cases of Notifiable Diseases occurring in each Parish in the Area.

NOTIFICATIONS
MEASLES and WHOOPING COUGH
1951-1956



POLIOMYELITIS

During the present century no other infectious disease and its prevention have held public imagination so intensely as did poliomyelitis and its vaccination during the early months of 1956. The announcement in mid-January of the proposal to vaccinate children of a certain age group with the new British Salk-type vaccine was given a mixed reception. Soon thereafter there arose such a babel of divergent opinion that one was reminded of the accounts of the mixed reception given to Jenner's vaccination against small-pox at the turn of the 18th century. Immediately after the 14th April, 1956 which was the latest date for the registration of parental consent forms with the statistical unit of the Medical Research Council, it was announced that approximately 29% of the eligible children in the country as a whole had been registered; the figure for Bucks was 22%. In April and May vaccination which consisted of two injections was completed in the first group of children chosen, but after the first injection of the second group, it was suspended and the vaccination rendered incomplete because supplies of the vaccine were inadequate. Suspended during the summer and autumn months when poliomyelitis is known to be prevalent, vaccination of the group left incomplete in May was completed in November, 1956. During 1956 the total number of cases in the country as a whole was low and the total number of children vaccinated was low but sufficient to permit a reliable statistical evaluation of the vaccine to be undertaken. The organization and the execution of the vaccination in 1956 was in the hands of Local Health Authority staffs and their medical officers but the 1957 programme makes provision for the employment of the general practitioner services.

Recently a further announcement by the Medical Research Council indicated that it was setting up a virus production plant at its serum laboratories at Carshalton, Surrey, which is expected to be in production in April, 1957. Its main function will be to produce poliomyelitis virus on a fairly large scale. It will also provide for research on virus cultivation and for the preparation of tissue culture on a pilot plant scale. Another function will be the production for research purposes, of different strains of virus that may find place in future poliomyelitis vaccine. The need for this new unit is explained in the following extract from the Medical Research Council's statement:

“ While there is by now a substantial amount of experience in the use of the Salk-type vaccines in different countries, there is no evidence that the use of such a vaccine could entirely prevent poliomyelitis. Experience in the use of killed vaccine (like the Salk type) against other diseases would strongly suggest that their use must be combined with other protective measures. For the prevention of poliomyelitis, very much more knowledge is re-

quired on the way in which the virus is spread through the population."

What seems to be implied here is that the inert Salk-type vaccine used is unlikely to be the ultimate answer to poliomyelitis though there is every hope that it will be a useful step toward the alleviation of the paralytic forms of the disease. At present therefore it seems prudent to continue research on the production of a "live, attenuated and harmless vaccine" that is safe and effective against poliomyelitis because such a vaccine could prevent the non-paralytic as well as the paralytic forms of the disease. One of the advantages which the discovery of such a vaccine would confer would be a longer-term immunity—periodic booster doses would not be required. In short, research is being concentrated to find a vaccine that will eliminate poliomyelitis in the same way that vaccination has eliminated indigenous smallpox from this country.

DIPHTHERIA

Immunization against Diphtheria 1956 (A.R.D.C.)

Age:	Under								Total
	1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14		
Primary Immunization	337	160	16	6	16	14	—	—	549
Re-Immunization	—	—	—	1	42	390	24	—	457

It has been estimated that to prevent the return of diphtheria in its severe forms it is necessary to immunize 75% of babies before reaching their first birthday. In 1956 the number immunized in the Council's area was 50.4%.

Decline in incidence of Diphtheria (1916-1956)

Even a casual glance at the national statistics for Diphtheria given below, suffices to reveal the phenomenal fall in both the annual numbers of cases and of deaths during the past forty years. A closer scrutiny shows, on comparing the corresponding figures for two ten-year periods, that whilst the numbers of cases in both periods are substantially the same, the number of deaths in the second ten-year period is virtually halved. The average annual number of cases for the period 1916/1935 is given as 51,575, and the annual deaths as 4,214, whilst the corresponding figures for the period 1933/42 are 55,123 and 2,783.

This decline in the number of deaths is striking. The only valid objection that can be lodged is that the numbers of cases for both periods are only partially corrected, as they may include other

diseases than diphtheria, the numbers are provisional. However, records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1942/43 and this practice has been continued since. It will be seen that a regularly progressive decline in the corresponding numbers is also evident in the third ten-year period, 1944/53. Here the number of corrected notifications fell from 23,199 with 934 deaths in 1944 to 266 cases and 23 deaths in 1953. This gratifying result can only be attributed to the new positive factor known to be operative in varying degrees during the past 25 years. This factor is immunization against diphtheria. True, immunization did not become official national policy until 1941, but in 1943 the immunization campaign was well under way. Many medical pioneers and Child Welfare Authorities had encouraged and practised immunization against diphtheria long before it became official policy and it has been zealously practised both by the medical staffs of Local Authorities and by general practitioners since 1945.

Year	Corrected Notifications	Deaths
Annual Average 1916/25	51,573	4,214
Annual Average 1933/42	55,125	2,783
1944	23,199	934
1945	18,596	722
1946	11,986	472
1947	5,609	244
1949	3,575	156
1948	1,890	84
1950	962	49
1951	664	33
1952	376	32
1953	266	23
1954	174	9
1955	161	11

FOOD POISONING

During the year two outbreaks of food poisoning were recorded. One was in a neighbouring Council's district, at a Nursery Class which was attended by two pupils from this Council's area; the other involved the 5 members of one family and two visitors to the household on Christmas Day, 1956. In each case the probable organism believed to be responsible for the outbreak was traced by the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, whose co-operation in these investigations is gratefully acknowledged.

Nursery Class Outbreak

The class is attended by about 30 children under 5: they receive their mid-day meal on the premises which is housed in a separate building quite apart from the main school. The meal is cooked on classroom premises. At mid-day on Wednesday the 24-10-56 the meal consisted of meat-stew-potatoes and treacle tart. Next morning two children were absent because of attacks of pain, diarrhoea and vomiting during the previous night, i.e. 24/25-10-56. The parents of 11 other children when they brought their children to school on Thursday the 25-10-56 mentioned similar attacks suffered by their children during the night all between 12 and 14 hours after partaking of the meal.

On Thursday 25-10-1956 the sample meal held over from the previous day was sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for investigation, and on the following day samples of faeces from 12 children were sent for investigation. No sample was available from the remaining child. Of the 13 children involved two only were residents in this Council's area.

The results of the laboratory investigations on the 30th October showed that in one case *Cl Welchii* were isolated both from a faecal specimen of one child as well as from the meat, stew and treacle tart. Though the organisms isolated did not appear to be of a type usually associated with food poisoning, they were further investigated, and a further report indicated that they did not resemble any of the usual food poisoning types.

Household Outbreak

On Friday the 28th December, 1956, Mr. W. brought into the Department a portion of ham to which he attributed the abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea that members of his family suffered on Boxing night the 26th December, 1956. Ham was eaten on Christmas Day at mid-day meal and on Boxing Day. The first

symptoms, abdominal pain occurred at 5 p.m. on Boxing Day. The persons concerned were himself Mr. H. D. W., his wife, Mrs. V. W., two of his children, H. aged 5 and R. aged 4; also his father, Mr. H. N. W., a visitor: the baby aged 2 and his mother Mrs. H. N. W., senior, escaped.

Upon investigation of the 7 persons at risk, only 2 escaped viz., baby (2) and Mrs. H. N. W. (Senior); neither had partaken of the ham: all the others had. As there seemed to be a fairly convincing story incriminating the ham, this was sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for investigation. A phone message from the laboratory on Monday the 31st December indicated that the surface of the ham was heavily contaminated with Staphylococci. In the meantime steps were taken to collect specimens of faeces and also nasal swabs from 3 of the 5 persons affected: two of the affected persons had left the district.

The full results of laboratory investigation show the presence of staphylococci in nasal swabs of both Mrs. V. W., and the child H., aged 5. The faeces of boy R. were also found to contain staphylococci. Though the strains of staphylococci found in the ham, Mrs. V. W.'s and child H.'s nasal swabs were probably the same; they were different from the strains found in boy R.'s faecal specimen. Although these strains are not normally associated with food poisoning, staphylococcal toxin seems the most likely cause of the outbreak.

Mrs. V. W., admitted that she was at the time and had been for weeks past suffering from a "sniffly cold" and also that she herself was the only person who handled the ham during cooking and serving at both meals.

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	1	3	.	1	.	.	.	.
45	3	3	.	.	.	1	.	.
55	2	.	1	1	1	.	.	.
65 & over	1	2	.	1	.	1	.	.
	12	15	1	4	1	2	.	.

P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations. 1925

Tuberculosis

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis Mass Radiography Survey (1956)

There can be no doubt that the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis in the community has been immeasurably assisted by a combination of the newer procedures now available. Amongst the most important of these are the following four: the simply administered skin test with tuberculin which demonstrates in children previous infection with tuberculosis; B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis of "school leavers"; Mass Radiography surveys of communities to discover unknown cases of the disease and finally the direct attack upon the disease by the newer drugs.

B.C.G. Vaccination and Chest X-Rays

Tuberculin-testing is an integral part of B.C.G. vaccination. The children eligible are "school leavers" in their 13-14th year. Vaccination involves two visits to the school by the school doctor, the first for the preliminary skin testing with tuberculin, the second to record the result of the test and to proceed according to the result. Those who react positively (positive reactors) do not participate further and the parent is informed of the reason. The positive reaction indicates that such children have already been infected with tuberculosis and that they have thereby acquired a degree of protection from further infection with the disease. It is however only right to add that though they are already infected they are not necessarily suffering from the disease. They do not require the added protection given by vaccination. Those who do not react to the test (non-reactors) are vaccinated against tuberculosis.

In the schools of the Amersham & Chesham Division (Bucks Education Committee), the B.C.G. vaccination of "school leavers" took place in March, 1956. Of the 535 children eligible by age, 431 were given the preliminary skin-test of whom 68 (15.7%) proved to be positive reactors. Of the remainder 345 (82.3%) of those tested were vaccinated. The positive reactors were also included in the "school leavers" groups investigated by chest X-rays by the Mass Radiography Survey in June, 1956. Up to date no case among the positive reactors has been notified as a case of tuberculosis. Also, the home contacts of all the positive reactors were written to and advised to undergo chest X-ray examinations by the Mass Radiography Unit as a precautionary measure to exclude the home contacts as the source of the child's infection which gave rise to the positive reaction.

Mass Radiography Survey—Special Groups

The usual groups investigated during a survey are (1) organized groups of industrial workers (2) "school leavers" (3) such individual members of the community as volunteer to attend. Since the underlying object of the survey is to determine the extent of the tubercular "reservoir of infection" within a community, it is obvious this can only be achieved when there is a 100% response from members of the community. As this degree of completeness has not yet been achieved anywhere in this country, the most practical alternative is to pay particular attention to special groups that are believed to carry a special responsibility in spreading the disease. Such a group is believed to consist of males of 45 years of age and over.

Generally speaking, there is a greater reluctance among the older age groups to participate in surveys and undertake chest x-rays, than in the younger. Recognising this, local doctors were communicated with and asked to bring the facilities of chest x-ray during the survey, to the notice of this special group among their patients. The number of males in this group investigated was 1,224 and the number referred to the Chest Physician for further investigation was 17.

Mass Radiography Survey

The joint survey of the Amersham and Chesham District was in the main organized on similar lines to those of the previous survey, four years ago in 1952. The survey took place during a period of approximately four weeks, the 28th May to 21st June, 1956. While one was touring the selected sites in the Amersham Council's District the other unit was stationary in the car park at Chesham for three weeks. The results of the survey are given on page 27 and the percentage attendance in the Amersham R.D.C., proved to be 11.10.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY—AMERSHAM & CHESHAM, 1956

Comprehensive Survey

TABLE I
General Outline

		M	F	Total
Village Green, Holmer Green	...	139	212	351
Dancer & Hearne, Ltd., Penn St.	...	250	81	331
Memorial Hall, Gt. Missenden	...	312	399	711
Amersham Old Town	...	500	533	1,033
Amersham-on-the-Hill	...	795	958	1,753
Chalfont St. Giles	...	215	208	423
Chalfont St. Peter	...	382	530	912
Broadway Car Park, Chesham	...	1,728	2,141	3,869
		4,321	5,062	9,383

TABLE II
Examinees—Mode of Attendance

GROUP		M	F	Total
University Students	...	114	—	114
School Leavers	...	654	687	1,341
Special Groups	...	1	27	28
Organised Groups	...	1,605	1,146	2,751
General Public	...	1,947	3,202	5,149
All Groups	...	4,321	5,062	9,383

Newly discovered Post-primary Tuberculosis (Active)

Sex	Age Group	Size of lesion	Group	Symptoms
Male	14-19	Early	Industrial	present
Male	23-34	Moderate	Industrial	none
Male	45-54	Moderate	General Public	none
Male	55-64	Moderate	General Public	none
Female	25-34	Moderate	General Public	none

Newly discovered Post-primary Tuberculosis (Inactive)

Inactive: 23.

Newly discovered Primary Tuberculosis

1 Male: aged 42.

SECTION V.

MILK

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—Article 20

When any person is suffering from disease caused by the consumption of milk, or if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is so suffering or indeed if milk is infected with organisms capable of causing disease in man, the Medical Officer of Health of a District is authorised to serve a notice prohibiting the sale of such milk unless it has been treated in such a way as to secure, to his satisfaction that it may with safety, be sold for human consumption. A dairy farmer on whom such notice is served is entitled to compensation for damage or loss by reason of the notice served. The commonest cause for the infection of milk are the organisms of brucella (contagious abortion in cattle). During the year reports were received from the County Council that 15 samples of milk in this area were infected with these organisms. Another of the causes for the infection of milk are the organisms of Tuberculosis, and during the year, reports were received that 4 samples of milk in this area were so infected. In all cases the milk was diverted to render it safe prior to sale for human consumption and 5 cows suffering from tuberculosis were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

FOOD AND DRUGS (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream)

ACT 1950. Section 23.

Specification of Areas.

The Council's district has, since the 21st March, 1955, been declared by the Minister of Food under Section 23 of The Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) 1950 Act a specified area. This means that only milks of special designation may be sold for human consumption within the Amersham Rural District and the sale therein of raw undesignated milk for that purpose is illegal.

SECTION VI.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 to 1951

The repeal of the old Poor Law was widely welcomed because it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness, and it was replaced by the National Assistance Acts, 1948-1951. In the redistribution of responsibilities imposed by these Acts, some fell to be assumed by the Local Authorities, and those under Section 47 and 50 became the responsibility of the local District Councils. No cases were dealt with under Section 47 during the year.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the past year, the duty imposed by this Section has been performed in two cases.

SECTION VII.

HOUSING

The number of properties shown below controlled by the Council at the end of December 1956, was 2,573, as compared with December, 1955, when it was 2,479. The range of properties is as follows:

<i>Housing Accommodation</i>		<i>December 1955</i>	<i>December 1956</i>
Pre-war Council houses ...	...	658	658
Post-war Council houses	...	1,507	1,678
Prefabricated bungalows	...	90	90
War-time buildings converted	...	5	2
Requisitioned and other properties	...	1	1
Vache Park Estates (camp site)	...	—	—
Beech Barn Estate	...	7	—
Woodlands Park Estate	...	24	—
Pipers Wood Estate	...	10	4
Hodgemoor Estate	...	171	138
Other Properties	...	6	2
		<hr/> 2,479	<hr/> 2,573

Camp Sites

There were four camp sites in partial occupation at the beginning of 1955. Owing to instructions from the central government, the clearance of these sites and hutments was progressively continued. Beech Barn and Woodlands Camp were cleared completely, the residents from the latter were absorbed into the Abbey Field Housing Site, Great Missenden. At Pipers Wood Camp site only four huts remain tenanted and further attempts at rehousing the tenants will be made during the coming year. Hodgemoor, with 140 huts, until recently a Polish resettlement camp, has been progressively phased for complete clearance by December, 1958.

The Housing of the Aged and Elderly

The Council has kept these special housing needs well to the forefront of its building programmes, and since 1945 it has reserved about 5 per cent. of all housing construction programmes on new estates for the aged and elderly. In all, there is now a total of about 250 such units of accommodation distributed throughout its district. The Council's most recent achievement however, has been the construction out of its own revenues, without exchequer subsidy, of housing accommodation comprising 27 single room flatlets—Glebe House, Chalfont St. Peter. One of the features of the under-

taking is the erection of a resident Warden's separate housing accommodation within the curtilage of the property. A warden undertakes certain supervisory duties in connection with the welfare of the tenants and her duties to the aged folk are, in fact, largely those understood by the term "a good neighbour." The object of such housing provision for the aged and elderly is to enable them to continue to live independent lives in their own homes.

At present the Council has under active construction Stevens House, another hostel for the aged and elderly at Whielden Street, Amersham. It will consist of 23 units of accommodation largely on the same pattern as Glebe House but differing in detail, the most important of which is the provision of a common room for communal activities.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

The stage has now been reached when some of the energies directed to the provision of additional houses are being diverted to the repair and improvement of older houses and to the replacement of those unfit and appropriate for clearance.

Under the 1949 Housing Act (s. 20) a summary of the applications for improvement grants is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Total Grants</i>
1950	1	£261
1951	1	£269
1952	2	£394
1953	9	£2,466
1954	29	£9,802
1955	72	£18,225
1956	50	£13,440

The Council's present policy is that applications for improvement grants are considered individually, each being decided on its merits.

SECTION VIII.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

General Administration

There were no changes in the technical staff of the Department, but one change was necessary in the clerical staff.

Under their new designation, the Public Health Inspectors continued to maintain their day-to-day inspections with the emphasis switching from Housing to Food Hygiene, as a result of the coming into operation of the new Food Hygiene Regulations at the beginning of the year.

Progress or changes of emphasis or pattern in the ever-widening field of environmental hygiene are neither dynamic nor spectacular, and for that reason they can only be seen and assessed in retrospect. In 1946 a total of 1,830 visits were made by a staff of four inspectors, whereas in 1956 the number of visits totalled 5,001, with a staff of five inspectors. This is, in part, due to the separation of the Department from the Surveyor's Department, thus enabling the inspectors to concentrate on the work for which they were trained and are qualified. In 1946, the number of visits in connection with water supply was about 27% of the total. In 1956, this total is less than 4%. Numerous extensions of the water main are responsible for this reduction. The number of 102 visits in connection with sampling in 1946 compared with 636 in 1956 emphasises the part played by the laboratory in present-day Public Health activities. No mention is made in the Report for 1946 of visits to moveable dwellings, and a total of 236 visits to Tents, Vans and Sheds during 1956 shows how this mode of living has become a permanent feature of this country.

Complaints of over-flowing cesspools are still far too frequent, and are, in part, due to the lack of sufficient plant and labour to cope with the heavy demands on the service. These unsatisfactory conditions are also due, to a certain extent, to the Council's policy of restricting the cesspool emptying plant in anticipation of the carrying out of further extensive sewerage schemes. Approval to the schemes is at present being held up by the Central Government.

Complaints were received of the emission of noxious fumes from a factory at Great Missenden, and heavy emissions of smoke from a factory at Penn Street. In the case of the Great Missenden factory, an officer of the Alkali Inspectorate was invited to visit the premises, and the factory management agreed to erect a new chimney. A new polythene chimney has been erected to a height of 50 ft. and fitted with a disperser. No further complaints have since been received.

In the case of the factory at Penn Street, a new boiler-house and chimney were practically completed by the end of the year, and it is hoped that this will avoid any further complaints.

Water Supply

The Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company is the statutory undertaking which supplies water to the whole of the Council's district, with the exception of the parish of Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards, and a portion of the parish of The Lee, which are served by the Bucks Water Board.

Samples of the main water have been taken from various parts of the district and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. In every case the report of the Analyst was satisfactory.

The results of the analytical reports are given in the Appendix of this Report.

During the year, the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out further extensions to their mains, as follows:

817 yards	...	...	2 inch main
1,218	„	...	3 „ „
3,296	„	...	4 „ „
53	„	...	6 „ „

No extensions were carried out by The Bucks Water Board.

253 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:

Source of Supply				
Rainwater	Bore	Well	Mains	Spring
14	200	2	47	Nil

The Reports of the Bacteriologist on 235 of the samples were satisfactory, and the reports on the other 28 samples indicated contamination in varying degrees. Appropriate action was taken in these cases.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following is a summary of Sanitary Inspectors' visits during the year:

General Sanitation

<i>Nature of Inspection or Visit</i>	<i>No.</i>
Water Supply	19
Drainage	442
Stables and Piggeries	29
Canal Boats	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	236
Workshops	2
Workplaces	1
Outworkers	7
Factories	104
Licensed Premises	10
Refuse Collection: Refuse Disposal	18
Rats and Mice	13
Atmospheric Pollution	51
Schools	5
Shops	1
Public Conveniences,	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	238

Informal Notices

Served:	42
Complied with:	37

Statutory Notices

Served:	9
Complied with:	3

Housing

No. of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	188
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ...	...	93
No. of Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	...	182
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ...	...	179
No. of Houses inspected in connection with over-crowding ...		2
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ...	...	Nil
No. of Houses inspected for Vermin ... ...	...	11
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ...	...	5
Visits in connection with Rural Housing Survey ...	...	5
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ... ...	...	1,128

Infectious Disease

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease ...	...	114
Visits re disinfection ... ...	...	17
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits ...	...	24

Meat and Food Inspection

Meat Inspection, Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	575
Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	7
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	Nil
Butchers	...	...	...	...	38
Canteens	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	17
Grocers	...	...	...	...	172
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	91
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	113
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	7
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	Nil
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	55
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	14

Visits in connection with:

Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	205
Milk (Brucella)	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	132
Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	286
Faeces Sampling	...	...	...	...	7
Washing-up Swabs	...	...	...	...	42
Egg Albumen Sampling	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous Food Visits	28

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No. of Visits or Inspections	3
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Game Act, 1931

No. of Game Licences renewed	9
No. of New Game Licenses	3

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936

No. of Licences renewed	...	...	...	...	105
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Visits made	...	...	...	...	54

Factories Act, 1937

No. of Factories on Register at end of year	...	...	...	...	135
No. of Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	104
No. of Defects found	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No. of Premises registered	4
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

No. of Slaughterman's Licences renewed	18
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Sanitary Inspectors continued to obtain and submit routine samples of milk for bacteriological examination, details of which are given below:

<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>	<i>Ungraded</i>
38	163	3	Nil

Of these, 195 proved "satisfactory" but the results of 9 samples were "unsatisfactory".

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year 36 licences were issued under the above Regulations, 10 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested," 16 to use the designation "pasteurised" and 6 to use the designation "Sterilised."

Ice Cream

Ninety-eight samples of ice-cream and ten lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination, and were graded as follows:—

<i>Ice Cream</i>			<i>Lollies</i>		
Grade 1	...	...	88	Satisfactory	...
Grade 2	...	...	10	Unsatisfactory	...

It is significant that during the year all ice cream samples fell into Grades 1 and 2. The following table shows the improvement obtained in the standard of ice cream since 1950.

	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
1950	15%	35%	30%	20%
1952	27.7%	39%	24.4%	18.9%
1956	89.8%	10.2%	Nil	Nil

I am of the opinion that the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947/51 are very largely responsible for this significant improvement.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

A total of 69,602 pigs were slaughtered at the Prestwood and Amersham Slaughterhouses and also at Messrs. S. Stevens of High Street, Great Missenden. The following table gives details of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and with Tuberculosis only. The total amount of meat and offal condemned at the Slaughterhouses was 27 tons 10 cwts. 12 lbs.

		Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	... ...	15	26	53	1,208	69,602
Number inspected	... ...	15	26	53	1,208	68,602
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned		-	-	-	-	99
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...		1	1	-	11	2,477
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis		6.67	3.85	-	.91	3.7
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned		-	-	1	-	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		-	-	-	-	1,485
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		-	-	-	-	2.15

Other Foodstuffs

Chickens	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	lbs.
Hens	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	"

Tinned Goods

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	935	tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	390	"
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,430	"
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	719	"
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,592	"
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	212	"
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Custard	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	"

RODENT INFESTATION AND DESTRUCTION, etc.

Fewer complaints are being received of rat and mice infestation on domestic premises, and the Rodent Officer has consequently been able to spend more time on the survey and inspection of agricultural buildings and land. A considerable number of contracts have been entered into for treatment of premises other than domestic, thus increasing considerably the income from this service.

Two litters of young glis-glis were reared by the Rodent Officer at the Council Offices. One adult and seven young were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and three of the young are being kept by the Rodent Officer for instructional purposes.

No. of Premises inspected for rats and mice, etc.	...	5,340
No. of Premises treated for rats and mice, etc.	...	447
No. of Premises visited for glis-glis	...	17
No. of glis-glis caught	...	20
No. of Wasps-nests destroyed	...	43

This figure includes the treatment of 68 premises for which charges were made.

Type and total estimated number of premises:

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,699
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	590
Agricultural Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	265

Class of Infestations:

Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	529

Complaints in connection with other rodents, rabbits, squirrels, etc., were passed as received to the County Agricultural Executive Committee at Stoke Mandeville.

Disinfections and Disinfestations

Disinfection of Premises:

For T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
For other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	One

Disinfestation of Premises:

For fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
For other insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	One
Bedding	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Section 14.

During the year, seventy-seven food premises were inspected under the above Regulations, and Preliminary Notices were served, specifying work necessary to conform to the requirements of the Regulations. Generally speaking, the food traders are co-operating but obviously some of those whose premises are well below the standard require time to effect all the necessary improvements.

Some of the improvements effected as a result of these inspections are—improved washing facilities with wash-hand basins and hot water, increased protection of food from contamination by the use of glass screens; the provision of cold display cabinets. In addition, these visits, I feel, have served to focus the attention of the staff of food premises on the importance of scrupulous cleanliness in the handling of foodstuffs, and these are generally welcomed by the food traders.

Invitations were readily accepted from the various women's organisations to address them on the Clean Food Campaign, and no opportunity will be missed to continue this propaganda.

A further 6 premises were registered under the above Section for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream, making a total in the register of 150 premises registered, 132 for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice cream, 14 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, and 4 for fish frying.

Housing

Housing defects were, in the main, dealt with by Informal Action under the Public Health Acts. Fifteen cottages were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit for human habitation, and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable cost. Demolition Orders were made in respect of five of the cottages; Undertakings were accepted in respect of six of the cottages (one of which has since been cancelled); Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 were made in respect of three cottages, and action in respect of another cottage was deferred. In addition, ten premises were demolished, either as a result of Demolition Orders made during or before 1956, or as a result of informal action. A further two cottages, which were the subject of an Undertaking, were reconditioned and the Undertaking cancelled.

In September, a Progress Report was made to the Council, showing the position at the end of the first year from the date on which the Council's proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, were submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local

Government. A summary of the position at that date is given hereunder:—

Total number of sub-standard cottages to be dealt with during the five-year period from the 30th August, 1955 265

Demolished or subject to Demolition Order	Subject to Closing Order	Subject to Under-taking	Under negotiation for purchase by Council	Reconstructed or Reconditioned
48	18	19	9	7

The Council continued to implement the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Fifty formal Certificates of Approval were issued for the conversion or improvement of fifty-three dwellings, the total approved cost being, £28,099, and the total amount of grants given was £13,440. The number of applications approved was less than in 1955. This decrease was partly due to the high rate of interest to be paid by borrowers in respect of their part of the cost of carrying out the improvements. Furthermore, in June, the Council limited the amount to be given by way of grant to £1,000 per month, and although as a result of this embargo, no pro-forma application was refused, the officers of this Department deemed it necessary to discourage some of the less urgent applications.

The ex-Army Camp at Beech Barn was cleared and instructions were given to de-requisition the site: the Pipers Wood, Amersham and Woodlands Park Great Missenden Camps were practically cleared, and some progress was made in the clearing of the Hodgemoor Camp.

The following is a summary of defects remedied by Formal and Informal action:

Cesspool accommodation repaired or provided	...	...	1
Drains repaired, altered or renewed ...	...	...	23
Dampness abated:			
1. Repairs to roof ...	...	...	2
2. Repairs to rainwater pipes ...	...	...	1
3. Repairs to rainwater guttering ...	...	...	1
4. Repairs to external walls ...	...	...	3
Repairs to wall and ceiling plaster ...	...	...	6
Repairs to roofs, wall and chimneys ...	...	...	6
Repairs to floors ...	...	...	2
Repairs to doors and windows ...	...	...	2
Repairs to sanitary convenience ...	...	...	4

Moveable Dwellings

The Council approved an additional 37 applications for Licences to erect, station and use moveable dwellings and the total number of licences current on 31st December, 1956, was 95.

No further sites were licensed during the year, but application was received in respect of the Chartridge site for permission to increase the maximum number of caravans from 73 to 93. This was approved, subject to the construction of additional roads to facilitate refuse collection, and for the convenience of the occupiers of the caravans.

This site and the one at St. Leonards have been satisfactorily maintained.

The owner of a caravan at Holmer Green was convicted by the Great Missenden Magistrates Court for occupying a caravan without a licence, and was fined £2 0. 0. Despite the conviction, he continued to occupy the caravan, and at a subsequent court he was fined a further £25 0. 0.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I of the ACT

1. Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	M/c line No.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	...	1	7	3	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	126	101	3	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	...	3	—	—	—	3
TOTAL	133	104	3	—

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were found Referred To H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	—	—
(a) insufficient	3	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	—

SECTION IX.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS (Sections 110 and 111)

The number of outworkers notified in accordance with Section 110(i)(c) was 36. They were engaged in Brush-making (1), Wearing Apparel (34), and Brass Articles (1).

SECTION X.

MISCELLANEOUS

Staff Examinations (Superannuation, etc.)

Number examined	11
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Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Number of cases investigated	149
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National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

Section 50—Number of Burials arranged	2
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Section 47—Number of cases investigated as in need of care and attention	—
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Number of cases removed to hospital or other institutions by Court Order	—
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APPENDIX I

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.22

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.2
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	374
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	16.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	246
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	20
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	266
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	...	1 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	...	20 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

*(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.*

APPENDIX II

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.23

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by
Gt. Berkhamsted Water Co.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.9
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	225
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	15.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	4.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	72
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	30
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	102
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	...	0 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	...	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

SCHEDULE TO APPENDIX
SAMPLES OF WATER COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR

(1) Name of Water Supply	(2) Water Undertaker	(3) Bacteriological Samples		(4) Chemical Samples		(5) Remarks
		Date	Result	Date	Result	
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.	7/3/56 2/7/56 31/10/56	Satisfactory ,, ,,	7/3/56 2/7/56 31/10/56	Satisfactory ,, ,,	
Bucks Water Board	Bucks Water Board	7/2/56 2/7/56 31/10/56	,, ,, ,,	7/3/56 2/7/56 31/10/56	,, ,, ,,	

Total Samples Collected: 12

